

**To:** Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Brown, Matthew  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 4:12:31 AM  
**Subject:** Re:

Thanks, Melissa. Look forward to hearing more.  
Matt Brown

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On Aug 14, 2015, at 8:32 PM, "Harrison, Melissa" <[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov)> wrote:

Matt-I'm working with the team here to help get you more answers. I'm really sorry for the delay. As you can imagine, we are overwhelmed with requests. Thank you for being so patient. Melissa

Melissa Harrison  
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On Aug 13, 2015, at 8:08 AM, Brown, Matthew <[MBrown@ap.org](mailto:MBrown@ap.org)> wrote:

Hi Robert-

Here are some of the outstanding questions from the last couple of days that we are still awaiting answers on.

In the interest of expediency, please respond as the answers become available rather than waiting to deliver them all at once.

And again, as we discussed this morning, most immediately we would appreciate further

details on the Administrator's order from yesterday to cease work on field investigations at mines. Without some context, the order doesn't mean too much to us. Please provide details on how many mine sites will be impacted, locations, and whether the order applies to cleanup work that is ongoing or simply investigative work that would come before a cleanup.

Last, is the administrator going to visit the mine site?

Thanks again for your time and any help.

I've cc'd some of my colleagues with The AP who also are working on this story.

Matt Brown

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I understand from yesterday's call that the EPA will be monitoring sediments. Has this already begun? Does the EPA have any gauge yet on extent of contamination on river bottoms, etc, in the wake of the plume?

--How likely are the contaminants to re-mobilize? How long will this remain a potential problem?

--Mines have been leaking contamination into some of these rivers for many years; will the Gold King spill appreciably increase the contamination load in the sediments?

--If the contaminants do re-mobilize, what are the chances that they will pose enough of a threat to prompt more drinking water advisories, closing of rivers, etc?

--Are there any plans to try to remove contamination from sediment? Is that even possible?

--Is plume expected to reach Lake Powell? When?

--for analytes listed in the tables of data results (including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, iron, barium, etc) can you please provide corresponding EPA water quality criteria?

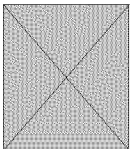
--had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

--how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?

--is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?

--was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

--it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?



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